

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6655

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 8049

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: UK, CI, SHUM, PGOV

SUBJ: BRITISH CONSERVATIVE MP VISITS CHILE

1. CONCLUDING A FIVE-DAY VISIT TO CHILE, TORY MP
ROBERT MCCRINDLE PRAISED THE GOC'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM
AND "THE PERVERSIVE INTERNAL ORDER AND TRANQUILITY"
IN THE COUNTRY BEFORE A SEPTEMBER 27 PRESS CONFERENCE.
AT THE SAME TIME, HE CALLED ON THE GOC AUTHORITIES TO
ALLOW RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE GROUPS TO
VISIT CHILE, AS A WAY OF IMPROVING CHILE'S IMAGE ABROAD.
MCCRINDLE PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO CONVINCE THE
LABOR GOVERNMENT TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE.

2. MCCRINDLE-- THE SECRETARY TO THE UK PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP ON LATIN AMERICA -- HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE
CHILEAN AIR FORCE (FACH). HE MET WITH JUNTA MEMBER
(AND FACH COMMANDER) GUSTAVO LEIGH SEPTEMBER 22
AND WITH SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS (JUSTICE, LABOR
AND ECONOMY). AT HIS REQUEST, MCCRINDLE TOURED THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH'S HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, THE VICARIATE
OF SOLIDARITY.

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3. THE UK EMBASSY TELLS US MCCRINDLE THINKS THE UK
SHOULD HAVE AN AMBASSADOR HERE, EVEN THOUGH HUMAN RIGHTS
PROBLEMS CONTINUE. HE BELIEVES VISITS OF INTERNATIONAL
INVESTIGATIVE GROUPS, SUCH AS THE UN AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS, COULD CLEAR UP SOME OF THE OUT-
STANDING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES TO THE BENEFIT OF THE GOC'S

IMAGE.

4. THE UK EMBASSY REGARDS AS DIM ANY CHANCES OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT BEING SWAYED INTO SENDING AN AMBASSADOR HERE. IT SAYS THAT SHEILA CASSIDY CASE REMAINS UNSATISFACTORILY ANSWERED AND THE GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION BASICALLY UNCHANGED. HOWEVER THE INCUMBENT CHARGE, A FIRST SECRETARY, WILL BE REPLACED BY A COUNSELOR WHEN HE COMPLETES HIS TOUR IN JANUARY 1978. THIS WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE REFLECTING THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S POLICY THAT A MEDIUM-SIZED EMBASSY LIKE SANTIAGO SHOULD BE RUN BY OFFICERS SENIOR TO FIRST SECRETAARY.

5. WE UNDERSTAND MCCRINDLE IS THE CONSEEVATIVE PARTY'S EXPERT ON LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND THAT HIS VIEWS COULD BECOME SIGNIFICANT. EMBASSY LONDON COMMENTS ON THE VISIT OR ANY FOLLOW-UP WELCOMED.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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